

Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street Suite 620
Sacramento CA, 95814

RE: FPPC case number 15/1275

Esteemed Members of the Commission,

I am writing regarding case number: 15/1275. I have been in communication with Katie Trumbly attempting to settle this matter, but we have not been able to agree to a settlement that I could commit to paying.

I am not a professional politico, I am a small businessman who in most months struggles to make his payroll and keep people working. The types of fines Ms. Trumbly is offering would mean that I would have to lay off a worker, or not pay mortgages.

I do not generally participate in politics (other than voting), and it is likely that I will not in the future. I no longer reside in California, which has been an added challenge in resolving this matter.

I know that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but if I had known I was legally required to put my name on that piece of mail I would have.

I ask this commission to please consider these facts in your decision, and know that I would dutifully pay a reasonable fine if given time to do so.

Thank you,

Michael Horner
Medford OR 97504

Angela J. Brereton
Katie Trumbly
Or any other concerned party
California Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Michael Horner
Medford OR 97504

RE: FPPC Case No.15/1275

Angela J Brereton,

Thank you for your offer for a quick settlement to this matter. I would like to offer additional information, and ask that you consider a few other mitigating circumstances.

I am not sure what in your investigation could have led you to believe I was aware of any requirement to report as a committee or include that committee information on any mass mailings while acting as a private citizen.

I believed sending this mailing was my right under the first amendment of the US Constitution. I was unaware that doing so made me a "committee" by virtue of the amount spent. I am not a professional political person, my knowledge is limited, and I was unaware of the formalities entirely.

Jim steel suffered no loses as a result of this mailing.

I would also like you to consider that I do not live in California anymore. Traveling to Lake County to file this report will have its own cost in time and monetary expenses.

I know that the settlement you have offered is half of what the potential penalties are, but it is nearly double the amount of the total cost of the offending mail. \$2500 seems excessive to a private citizen who was trying to participate in the political process, and it is unlikely I could acquire this amount in a lump sum.

I would favor a quick resolution, but with a fine so hefty, I may have to take my chances in a hearing. Please consider lowering the fine so we may find a quick resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Horner